Starving Population

†774. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the information given in an international report (Food and Agriculture Organisation) is true to the effect that despite sufficient stock of foodgrains in India, half of the starving population of the world live in India even after 50 years of its independence;

(b) if not, the reasons for projecting a bad image of India at the international level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have not published any report stating that half of the starving population of the world live in India. FAO's reports normally refer to undernourishment and not starvation. In a publication issued by FAO in 1999 entitled "Food Insecurity in the World" which gives the details of the prevalence of undernourishment in developing countries it has been estimated that in India the percentage of proportion of the undernourished in the total population in 1995—97 was 22%. The number of undernourished people in India has been estimated in FAO's publication as 204.4 million, which constitutes about 25% of the total undernourished population in the world.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.